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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/734,833	12/11/2000	Peter D. Costigan JR.	STL920000081US1	4726

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INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORP
IP LAW
555 BAILEY AVENUE, J46/G4
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EXAMINER

ROSWELL, MICHAEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2173

DATE MAILED: 05/20/2004

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/734,833	COSTIGAN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Michael Roswell	2173	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 March 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 March 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claims 2, 6, 8, 12, 13, 14, and 18 objected to because of the following informalities: Claims 2, 6, 8, 12, 14, and 18 recite the term "corresponding to transaction". The Examiner further interprets this as "corresponding to *the* transaction". The claims further recite the limitation "a visual indicia". Claim 13 recites the limitation "a query the repository". The Examiner further interprets this as "a query *of* the repository". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 12, 13, and 18 recite the limitation "which source files and which interfaces" in the third paragraph of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Subsequent dependent claims are rejected.

Claims 2, 6, 8, 12, 14, and 18 recite the limitation "the link to an entry point". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 12, 13, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps, such omission amounting to a gap between the steps. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted step is: "storing information about the source files and interfaces comprising an application program". The step should take place between the second and third paragraphs of the claims. Subsequent dependent claims are rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mutschler, III (U.S. Patent 6,253,366) hereinafter Mutschler and Schultz (U.S. Patent 5,640,553).

Regarding claims 1, 7, and 13, Mutschler teaches parsing source code of an application program to identify meta information (shown as parsing the variable component of a meta-model into a first set of constituent components, at col. 2, lines 43-48), storing in a repository the meta information and a link pointing to an original location of the meta information within the application program (taught as the storage of a meta-model and application model in the repository of Fig. 2, and the repository methods for cataloging, browsing, modeling, and managing components that make up an application, of col. 5, lines 21-23), constructing a new source file containing the interfaces which comprise the application program, storing the new source file and a link pointing to a location of the new source file in the repository, and constructing a meta language document containing a description of the application program interfaces to enable a connector building tool to build an interface to the application program (taught as the creation of an XMI DTD file for specifying the rules for content and attributes of each element in the application and for referencing external entities, at col. 4, lines 48-60, employed for communication between the repository and application tools, at col. 5, lines 13-15).

Mutschler fails to teach allowing a user to query the repository to determine which source files and which interfaces comprise the application program.

Schultz teaches a system for information retrieval in response to user queries to a database or repository similar to the repository used by Mutschler. Furthermore, Schultz shows teach allowing a user to query the repository to determine which source files and which interfaces comprise the application program, taught as the retrieval of document and multimedia records from an index database in response to a query, at col. 4, lines 11-14.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Mutschler and Schultz before him at the time of the invention to modify the DTD generation system of Mutschler with the database query system of Schultz in order to obtain a system for software development where specific application information can be searched.

One would be motivated to make such a combination for the advantage of viewing documents and multimedia files relating to an application. See Schultz, col. 2, lines 59-63.

Regarding claims 2, 8, and 14, Schultz, taken as the application program, teaches displaying visual indicia which navigates via the link to an entry point of the source code corresponding to a transaction, taught as the selection of a transaction button such as those found in Fig. 4A, which inherently link to an entry point in the application's source code by calling the method related to the button. See col. 17, lines 7-10.

Regarding claims 3, 9, and 15, it can be seen in Fig. 4A of Schultz that displaying the transaction contained in the application program together with a visual indicia which navigates to documentation stored in the repository corresponding to the transaction is taught as the use of a "view document" button for further document information.

Regarding claims 4, 10, and 16, Schultz shows allowing a user to select a transaction (selecting the buttons of Fig. 4A, at col. 17, lines 7-10), displaying a data structure corresponding to the selected transaction (the results list of Fig. 4A displayed in response to a search transaction, at col. 7, lines 38-41), allowing the user to select the data structure ("clicking" the mouse in the results list to select a document, at col. 15, lines 1-5), and for the selected data structure, computing input and output fields and overlaying the fields on the selected data structure (the generation of a composite document window for accepting input and displaying output, at col. 15, lines 31-41, and the query box of Fig. 4A).

Regarding claims 5, 11, and 17, a user is allowed to edit a computed field, shown in Schultz as the addition of information through copy, cut, and paste operations at col. 13, lines 31-41, and further analyzes selections and editions of the query field to determine if an error exists, shown as the spell-checking operation of col. 12, lines 36-45.

Claims 6, 12, and 18, are rejected under Mutschler and Schultz for the reasons presented *supra*, due to the fact that the claims recite the exact limitations of the previously rejected claims.

Conclusion


The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The cited art reflects the state of the art as related to the application.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Roswell whose telephone number is (703) 305-5914. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 6:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (703) 308-3116. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Michael Roswell
May 10, 2004



CAO (KEVIN) NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER